PeopleTapes
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Wendy Clarke, Director

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UPTOWN, DOWNTOWN -- NEW MICROWAVE SYSTEM LINKS BOYS AND GIRLS TOGETHER

NEW YORK---A short-haul microwave-linked video system more often associated with surveillance and keeping people apart is being used to bring them closer together -- purely for entertainment purposes.

Two Manhattan sites, 7-1/2 miles distant, will be connected by the first public interactive video link under the auspices of PeopleTapes, a not-for-profit organization.

From June 6 - 28, locations in the financial district and Harlem will be the scene of live entertainment, Monday through Friday, staged by prominent performers as well as the amateur talent that abounds on New York streets.

The three-week endeavor will take place at the Austin J. Tobin Plaza, One World Trade Center and the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building, 163 W. 125 Street. People in each location are positioned around 12' diameter circles, while a camera rotates 360° to record their images. The real-time images from each location are then electronically combined into a single video picture, and the participants can see themselves on monitors as they dance, play and perform with each other.

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Dubbed THE LINK, the video "sculpture" was created by video artist Wendy Clarke, director of PeopleTapes, together with Leanne Mella, a video producer. Clarke gained national repute with an earlier video project, the LOVE TAPES, which played to audiences nationwide.

During the month the LINK will be exhibited, Ms. Clarke has assembled an array of talent to give scheduled performances between noon and 1:30. They include: Ornette Coleman, the jazz composer and musician, champion Double Dutch jumpers, breakdancers, costume designer Annie Hickman and the Elaine Sommers Dance Company. The morning and afternoon will be given over for public use.

Providing the low-cost, highly reliable and easily installed "sight and sound" communications link between the two locations is the Microwave Products Department of General Electric. The Company's new extended range GEMLINK^{R} PVL-2000 communications link provides full duplex video and audio transmission between the uptown and downtown sites. The GEMLINK PVL-2000 pole-mount transceiver unit is designed for all-weather operation and interfaces to standard video cameras and monitors. The GEMLINK communications link provides professional broadcast quality, full color video channel and multiple audio subcarrier program channels.

Other organizations involved in bringing PeopleTapes to the public include: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; the Office of General Services of the State of New York; the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Harlem Cultural Council; the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservations and Manhattan Cable TV.

Scanned from the Wendy Clarke collection at the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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